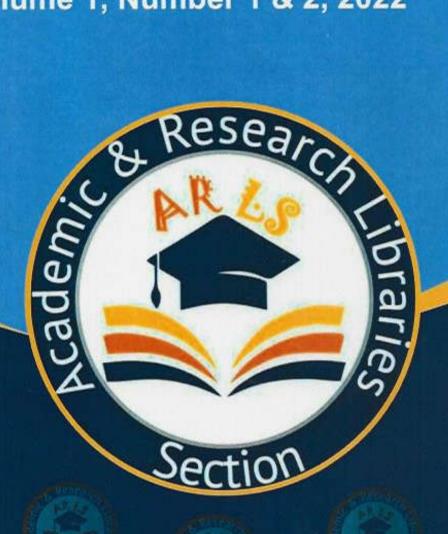
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES JOURNAL

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A Publication of Academic and Research Libraries Section of Nigerian Library Association

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES (ARL) JOURNAL

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NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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DIGITAL INFORMATION RESOURCES ITS ADOPTION AS CORRELATE OF STUDENTS' ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper investigated the Digital Information Resources its adoption as correlates of Academic Activities of students in Federal universities in Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was employed with a population of 1,695 in 12 selected Federal universities in Nigeria. The study was guided by two research questions and one hypothesis tested at 0.05 alpha level. A. Structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Descriptive statistics of frequency count, percentage (%), mean score and standard deviation as well as inferential statistics of Chi-Square Test of Independence were used for the data analysis. The findings of the study revealed that e-books, e-journals, e-conference proceedings, e-magazines, e-greys, e-newspapers, e-theses/dissertations and multimedia resources were adopted by the students for reading preparatory to lests or examinations as well as writing of seminar papers, workshop papers, conference papers, article publications, projects, thesis or dissertations and class assignments. Conclusively, students' adoption of digital information resources bas positively but weakly correlated with their academic activities. It is recommended that academic libraries in Nigeria should provide free Internet service and information content push technology to bolster students' academic activities while students should adopt trustworthy and reliable digital -formation resources in academic libraries for better academic excellence.

Introduction

Separating the concept of adoption from use when discussing the application or utilization of library resources for better academic excellence. The two concepts have always appeared as either synonymous or are interchangeable. Adoption is a process in taking action towards use and therefore precedes use itself. Adoption is a decision making activity or action or process, which is employed to predict an individual behaviour towards usage (Basri & Alandejani, 2018). Therefore, many researches are always geared towards identifying factors that determine or influence adoption, because it is believed that adoption is more of attitudinal behaviour, which is centred on feelings, motivation, attitudes, needs, and thoughts. For example, Venkatesh, (2012) professed that there are seven elements which influence adoption viz: performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social condition, and facilitating condition, hedonistic motivation, price value and habit with additional three moderating variables such as age, gender and experience. In the theory, facilitating condition and habit directly influencing use behaviour. In the light of the above explanation, the need to identify the relationship between adoption of digital information resources and students' academic activities in higher institution such as universities becomes eminent.

Universities are established with the core mandate of values, resources and objectives for teaching, learning, research and services to the host communities. Libraries established within the university community offer supports to attain those set objectives. One of such objective is to provide resources for the running of academic activities of both students and faculty members. Such academic activities are not limited to teaching, research, examinations, assignments, but include conference, workshop and article writing for presentation or publication (Ankamah, Akussah & Adams, 2018). Academic activities are outlined in the institutions' curriculum designed to engage students and teachers in learning, teaching and researches (Wong, et al., 2018; Basri & Alandejani, 2018). The successes of students' engagement in academic activities in universities are to support academic activities which, are reflected in successes they attain in tests, examinations, writing of quality conference papers, seminar papers, publishable article, projects / theses / dissertations, and attainment of knowledge (Ankamah, Akussah & Adams, 2018). Academic activities are also lined up in higher institutions to ensure that students are properly guided towards attaining academic excellence and certificate of honour after the successful completion of such programme.

Since the emergence of digital information resources in the hemisphere of education as pedagogical tools for learning, research and teaching and coupled

with the development of Internet, World Wide Web, Web-browsers and martphones, researchers and library patrons including students in higher estitutions seem to exercise preference towards digital information resources mecause of the characteristics of flexibility, simplicity and ease of use. There is also acts about remote access, transfer-ability, share-ability, and portability associated with digital information resources, also made academic libraries to acquire, subscribe and disseminate digital information resources in response to the dire need to compliment the shortages, obsoletes, wear and tear, theft, cost of purchase maintenance linked to printed books and journals in recent times. prisingly, the behavioural outcome of academic libraries in acquisition and assemination of digital information resources and students' behaviour towards exessibility, adoption and use of digital information resources seem to be falling wart on parallel directions. Could the reasons for students eschewing libraries' sources be lying with the behavioural intention or decision making strategy of the students? Could the knowledge about the students' behavioural intention mitudes) towards digital information resources in relation to their academic wities provide headway in addressing students' truancy and phobia to graries?

matement of the Problem

Academic libraries subscribe to online databases to make digital mation resources such as e-books, e-journals, e-magazines, e-conference ceedings, e-theses and e-dissertations available for library users to adopt and Academic libraries, in addition, provide user education to boost users' meness about the resources and increase users' skills of access and use. As usual sudents, they only adopt digital information resources they consider easy to see, believe that facilities for accessing the resources are readily available and we that the resources are valuable to their academic activities. Implicitly, most ments seem to be staying away from academic stress and difficulty associated searching, identifying, evaluating, and using information resources in the maries.

The following were the objectives of this study

Identify types of academic activities that postgraduate engineering meets engage in the twelve Federal Universities under study.

Identify the types of digital information resources that postgraduate meering students adopt for academic activities in the universities under

Digital Information Resources, its Adoption as Correlate of Students' Academic Activities: Ibrahim Wada, Abubakar Bitagi Mohammed& Katamba Abubakar Saka

study

Research Questions

- 1. What are the types of academic activities that postgraduate engineering students engage in at Federal universities under study?
- 2. What are the types of digital information resources that postgraduate engineering students adopt for academic activities in the universities under study?

Research Hypothesis

I. There is no significant relationship between adoption of digital information resources and postgraduate engineering students' academic activities in the universities under study.

Literature Review

The engagement in academic activities by students can hardly be successful without use of trustworthy and reliable information resources (Ogbebor, 2011; Mohammed, Alhassan & Oyedum, 2018). Use of information resources is preceded by and regulated by the behavioural intention to use the resources (Venkatech, 2012). Such behavioural intention is determined by several psychological factors such as ease of use of the resources, benefits of using the resources, persuasion from colleagues or relatives towards the use of digital information resources (Venkatech, 2012; Uddin, Al Mamun, & Rahman, 2019). Nonetheless, in view of academic libraries' subscription to online databases and dissemination of digital information resources therefrom, students' academic activities is expected to be positively and strongly correlational to the adoption of digital information resources in terms of their academic successes.

Academic activities are laid down components of curriculum in higher institutions of learning that give students the academic privilege to partake in tests, examinations, and researches which usually lead to the presentation of seminar, conference, and workshop papers (Ali, Tariq and Topping, (2013); Osakwe, Keavey, Uzoka, Fedoruk and Osuji (2015); Kansas State University (2021) and Lawinsider (2021). Academic activities offer students the necessary and importance learning channels and protocols to interact proactively in various learning instructions such as digital information resources, create enabling opportunities for students to engage in researches as part of their contributions to discovery, innovation, and problem solving. Academic activities can easily be improved if students are able to regularly adopt digital information resources. This view is confirmed by Joseph, Izuagbe and Hamzat (2016) where they investigated the electronic information resources adoption in private university

libraries: the moderating effect of productivity and relative advantage on perceived usefulness. Their findings revealed that quality of job output improved, ob performance increased, ease of carrying out task enhanced as manifestation of relative advantage of adopting digital information resources. Similarly, Pinigas, Cleopas, and Phiri (2018) investigated the acceptability of electronic information resources in Zimbabwe State universities' libraries by students where 233 respondents were involved. Their study revealed that, there was sufficient statistical evidence pointing out that social influence, price value and habit had a statistically significant and positive influence on behavioural intention to adopt electronic information resources.

Though the relationship between adoption and academic activities is sually considered to be moderated by actual use, the impacts of adoption on academic activities cannot be underestimated (Venkatesh, 2012). In pursuit of academic excellence, electronic theses and dissertations are good sources of refined knowledge because the results of the researches are carefully produced ander the guidance of experience scholars (Gasaymeh, Al-Taweel, Al-Moghrabi & Al-Ghonmein, 2017; Kaba and Ellala, 2019). In other words, empirical literature are prerequisite for successful academic engagement. Based on this reason, sostgraduate students are expected to make wider consultations of current and p-to-date e-journals and e-conference proceedings in search of supporting ideas, ws, opinions, findings or contradictory opinions or findings. Ho (2015) opraised that higher institutions of learning usually offered research seminars which introduce graduate students to the process of developing the skills they meed to read and evaluate the previous research studies. Multimedia resources as spes of digital information resources are known to play significant roles in mademic activities when learning to attain not only knowledge but also skills and perience that are requisite for academic excellence. Mahajan (2012) reported multimedia technology use a variety of interactive means; make originally lectures into interactive two way information exchange.

Neo and Neo (2009) emphasized that multimedia technology is recognized having the ability to empower educational process by means of increased meraction between teachers and the students. Tulinayo, Ssentume and Najjuma 2018) reported that students who used animated visuals scored significantly er on mental rotation tests than those who used static visuals. Smaldino, Descrah, Lowther and Russell(2015) similarly suggested that visual learning muld increase students understanding of abstract concepts because a student's exception of ideas can be enriched by visual example. Therefore, visuals can mote development of perceptual thinking.

Wang and Bai (2016) investigated the students' awareness, usage and

attitude towards e-books at the Zhejiang University in China. Their findings indicated that there was a significant difference of students' awareness and usage of general e-books and academic e-books. There was a higher awareness but lower adoption of general e-books. The awareness and level of usage of library provided e-books were both very low. A search engine was generally used to access e-books. Senior undergraduates and postgraduate students mainly accessed e-books from the library website and library catalogue. Students, particularly undergraduate students, used e-books mainly for the purpose of leisure. In contrast, postgraduate students tended to use e-books more for academic purposes.

Khan, Bhatti and Khan (2016) conducted a study on e-books usage by agricultural, engineering and social science students in selected universities of Pakistan. The results showed that the adoption of e-books has reached a level where they have become an integral component of academic library services. The results of this study verify the previous findings that the students are relying on ebook adoption for various academic and research purposes. Comparatively, male students, postgraduate students and those between the ages of 21 and 40 years are more frequently e-book users.

Narang and Suman (2016) carried out a study on the use of periodical literature by engineering students: a study of Baddi University of emerging sciences and technology. The outcomes of the study demonstrated that most of the students prefer to use online journals instead of printed journals; prolific publishers having engineering journal databases are substantially known to the respondents; students use journal literature to understand various key concepts of a particular discipline and also to improve writing skills.

Research Methodology

Descriptive Survey Research Design was used for the study. The population of the study consisted of 1,695 postgraduate engineering students registered for 2018/219 academic session in 12 Federal Universities, 2 each from six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The sample size was 314 which was determined with a proportionate sample of 26 from each university was determined for the administration of the research instrument. Questionnaire was employed as instrument for data collection. 306 questionnaire were returned representing 97% suitable for analysis. Descriptive statistics of frequency count, percentage, mean score and standard deviation were used for analysis of two research questions while inferential statistics of Chi-Square was used for testing one hypothesis at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

Findings

Table 1: Academic Activities Engaged In by postgraduate engineering students

SNO	Academic activities	N	Respon NE	Decision		n	
			Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	X	Std.	Xd
1.	Seminar paper writing	306	223(72.9)	83(27.1)	1.73	.444	A
2	Workshop paper writing		80(26.1)	226(73.9)	1.28	.440	D
3.	Conference paper writing		244(79.7)	62(20.3)	1.80	.474	Α
4	Article for publication writing		235(76.8)	71(23.2)	1.77	.500	Α
5.	Writing the Project/Thesis/Dissertation		306(100.0)	306(100.0)	2.00	.000	Α
6.	Writing Class assignments		306(100.0)	306(100.0)	2.00	.000	A
7.	Reading for tests and examination		306(100.0)	306(100.0)	2.00	.000	Α
	Weighted Mean						

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Key: Engage (E), Not Engage (NE), N (306), Mean score (\bar{x}), Standard Deviation (Std.) Decision mean ($\bar{x}_u = 1.50$)

Table 1 presents the various academic activities that the respondents were gaged in for which they adopted and used digital information resources. The adings shows that the respondents were engaged in class assignment writing ($\bar{x} = 2.00$, Std. = .000), reading for tests and examinations ($\bar{x} = 2.00$, Std. = .000), beject/Thesis/Dissertation writing, ($\bar{x} = 2.00$, Std. = .000), conference paper string ($\bar{x} = 1.80$, Std. = .474), article paper writing ($\bar{x} = 1.77$, Std. = .500), seminar apper writing ($\bar{x} = 1.73$, Std. = .444), workshop paper writing ($\bar{x} = 1.28$, Std. = .440). The mean score for the findings is $\bar{x} = 1.26$, Std. = .440.

The finding shows that, very large number of respondents participated in minar paper writing as part of their academic activities. The finding also realed that a few number of respondents engaged in workshop paper writing. The result portrayed that significant number of respondents engaged in writing reference paper as academic activities. The finding equally revealed that the large of respondents that engaged in writing article paper as academic activity relarge. However, the findings showed that every respondent engaged in large activities such as report/thesis/dissertation, class assignment, and examination as part of academic requirement.

Table 2: Types of Digital Information Resources Adopted by postgraduate

Digital Information Resources, its Adoption as Correlate of Students' Academic Activities: Ibrahim Wada, Abubakar Bitagi Mohammed& Katamba Abubakar Saka

SNO Digit	Digital information resources	N	Respon NA	Decision			
	adopted		Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	X	Std.	Xa
1.	e-books		236(77.1)	70(22.9)	1.77	.421	A
2.	e-journals	306	261(85.3)	45(14.7)	1.85	.355	A
3.	e-project/ e-thesis / e-dissertation		244(79.7)	62(20.3)	1.80	.403	Α
4.	e-conference papers		242(79.1)	64(20.9)	1.79	.407	A
5.	Multimedia		222(72.5)	84(27.5)	1.73	.447	A
6.	e-Reference materials		209(68.3)	97(31.7)	1.68	.466	A
7.	e-seminar Papers		246(80.4)	60(19.6)	1.80	.398	A
8.	e- Zines		192(62.7)	114(37.3)	1.63	.484	Α
9.	e-Newsletters		107(35.0)	199(65.0)	1.35	.478	L
10	. e-Grey document		168(54.9)	138(45.1)	1.55	.498	P
Weighted Mean					1.59		

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Key: Agree (A), Disagree (D), N=306, Mean score (\vec{x}), Standard Deviation (Std.) Decision mean ($\vec{x}_d = 1.50$)

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Table 2 shows the types of Digital information resources adopted by postgraduate engineering students. These include e-journals (\bar{x} = 1.85, Std. = .355), e-project/e-thesis / e-dissertation (\bar{x} = 1.80, Std. = .403), e-seminar Papers (\bar{x} =1.80, Std. = .398), e-conference proceedings (\bar{x} = 1.79, Std. = .407), e-books (\bar{x} = 1.77, Std. = .421), multimedia resources (\bar{x} = 1.73, Std. = .447), e-reference (\bar{x} = 1.68, Std. = .466), e-zines (\bar{x} = 1.63, Std. = .484), e-Grey document (\bar{x} = 1.55, Std. = .498) and e-Newsletters (\bar{x} =1.35, Std. = .478). Statistically, the weighted Mean is greater than the decision mean (\bar{x} = 1.59 > \bar{x} _d=1.50).

As can be observed in Table 2 the findings showed that significant number of respondents adopted e-books for academic activities. The finding revealed that large number of respondents adopted e-journals for academic activities. It is also found out that the respondents adopted e-projects/theses/dissertations for academic activities. The finding discovered that e-conference proceedings were adopted for academic activities. In addition, multimedia resources were also found to have been adopted by the respondents. The findings revealed that e-

derence materials, e-seminar papers, e-zines and e-grey were significantly dependent by the respondents for academic activities. But, the finding showed that number of the respondents adopted e-newsletter for academic activities.

Table 3: Summary of Chi-Square Test for Independence: Adoption of Digital Information Resources*Academic Activities

	N	Value	Cramer's V	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	306	23.625a	.278	1	.000
Continuity Correction ^b		18.303		1	.000
Likelihood Ratio		12.564		1	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association		23.548		1	.000

The summary of the Chi-Square Test for Independence in Table 3 shows that the probability value is less than the alpha level (p < 0.05), which signifies that there is statistical evidence to conclude that the hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between adoption of digital information resources and postgraduate engineering students' academic activities is hereby rejected, implying that a positive but weak relationship exists between the two categorical variables (Crama's V = .238). In other words, students' adoption of digital information resources successfully bolsters their academic activities. These findings reveal that the more students are disposed or demonstrate positive attitude towards digital information resources, the more likely they would use the resources to enhance their various academic activities.

Summary of Major Findings

- 1. A Significant number of the postgraduate engineering students, as indicated in Table 1, Are engaged in academic activities such as class assignment writing, reading for tests and examinations, project/Thesis/Dissertation writing, conference paper writing, article paper writing as well as seminar paper writing. However, a few number of the respondents are engaged in academic activities like workshop paper writing.
- A Significant number of the respondents as indicated in Table 2 adopted e-journals, e-project/e-thesis/e-dissertation, e-seminar papers, e-conference papers, e-books, `multimedia resources, e-reference materials, e-zines and e-grey document for academic activities, with the exception of e-newsletters,

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which were not adopted for academic activities.

Discussion of the Findings

The result of the analysis of the academic activities as shown in Table 1, revealed that postgraduate engineering students were engaged in the following; Seminar paper writing, workshop paper writing, conference paper writing article writing, writing the project/thesis/dissertation, writing class assignments, and reading for tests and examination. No wonder all the enumerated academic activities are the core mandate of postgraduate students. The finding is in line with the discoveries of Ogbebor, 2011; Mohammed, Alhassan & Oyedum, 2018) who variably reported that students' participation in academic activities are mandatory requirements on which the students are examined and rewarded with academic credits. The findings of the authors, as confirmed by this study, are a reflection of the activities outlined and specified in the curriculum of education in high institutions like universities Zohrabi, 2011; Kansas State University, 2021 and Lawinsider, (2021). Academic activities are mandatory for students, and as requirements, students are examined based on their level of engagement in such academic activities. For example, writing of seminar papers, conference papers, and workshop papers are used to allow university management to measure the degree of learning and level of excellence in mastery of specialization Osakwe, et al. (2015). The academic activities also allow students to express their understanding on the subject matter, present and discuss their findings, show their discoveries and innovations as well as demonstrate their skills and knowledge in the field they pursue. In addition, reading for tests and examinations are measures established as part of academic activities to examine the level of knowledge and skills acquired by students in the course of learning.

The findings on the types of digital information resources as displayed in Table 2 revealed that significant number of postgraduate engineering students adopted various digital information resources for academic activities. It is not surprising that postgraduate students always surf and evaluate different information resources before they include them in their researches. The revelation is in agreement with the findings of Venkatesh, (2012) in which he stated that adoption is a requisite aspect of user behaviour. It also corroborates the findings of Gasaymeh, Al-Taweel, Al-Moghrabi & Al-Ghonmein (2017); Kaba and Ellala (2019); Wong, 2018); Basri and Alandejani (2018); Ankamah, Akussah and Adams (2018); where they reported that university students' perceptions and adoption of the digital information resources or digital technologies are the determinant of subsequent use of the resources. The authors also added that the driving force behind students' use of digital information resources is the level of their adoption.

This revelation is not unlikely because, it is typical of individual student to evaluate the usefulness of information resources, the ease and flexibility or difficulty associated with the use of such information resources before they actually use them.

Conclusion

The data presented and the discussions of the findings have generally shown that postgraduate engineering students in higher institutions in Nigeria engage in various academic activities. It is also revealed that, to facilitate their learning and research endeavour, they adopt various digital information resources. However, the adoption of the types of digital information resources for academic activities is generally low. This is statistically manifested in the result of the hypothesis test where it is revealed that positive but weak relationship exist between adoption of digital information resources and postgraduate engineering students' academic activities.

Recommendations

- Academic libraries should improve their priority for students' academic
 activities by deploying facilities such as uninterrupted free or low rate
 Internet service, Information-Contents-Push-Technology like RSS feeds,
 emails, social media, and YouTube for regular user education or digital
 literacy to inculcate positive attitudes in students towards information
 resources in libraries
- Students should resist the trap in information-glut and adopt trustworthy and reliable information resources including digital information resources specifically acquired and disseminated by academic libraries to attain better academic excellence.

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